

# Portishead Urban District Council.

## - ANNUAL REPORT -

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending 31st December, 1925.



*To the Chairman and Members of the Portishead Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

By request of the Minister of Health, the Annual Report this year is to take the form of a Survey Report, so items as found in this Report are put down in somewhat more detail than heretofore.

### 1. Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

- (a) Area (in acres) 1,029.
- (b) Population Census 1921, 3,815. Estimated 1925, 3,873.
- (c) Physical Features and general character of area.

Portishead is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Bristol Channel. It is surrounded by well-wooded hills, and enjoys a healthy and bracing climate for the greater part of the year.

- (d) Number of Inhabited Houses 1921, 736
- (e) Number of Families or separate occupiers 1921, 

Private Families.	Population in ditto.
889.	3,445.
- (f) Rateable Value, £17,200. Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £71.

### 2. Vital Statistics.

			M.	F.	Total.	
BIRTHS	{	Legitimate	...	37	19	56
		Illegitimate	...	1	1	2
DEATHS		...	...	21	31	52
Deaths of Infants under 1 year			1	1	2	

Birth rate per 1,000, 15·2.  
Death rate per 1,000, 13·4.  
Death rate per 1,000, ~~844~~ 345

### 3. Health Services in the District.

(a) TUBERCULOSIS.—There is a Tuberculosis Care Committee in the District which meets once a month to discuss the needs of Tubercular cases. The Committee does excellent work and makes it its duty to see that necessitous cases do not lack anything which might aid them to recovery

(b) BABY WELFARE CENTRE.—There is not at present a centre in the District, but it is hoped very shortly to begin one.

(c) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—All ambulance cases are sent to Bristol by either the City and Marine Ambulance Corps or St. John's Ambulance Corps. They can usually come at a moment's notice, and are entirely satisfactory in every way.

(d) INFECTIOUS CASES.—These are nursed in the majority of cases in their own homes. When it is thought better that a case should be removed, it is sent to Flax Bourton in a Special Ambulance. Great care is taken over disinfection, and all bedding, etc. belonging to an infectious case is sent to Bristol for sterilization.

(e) PORTISHEAD NURSING ASSOCIATION.—This Association is still doing excellent work, but if it is to carry on its good work it must receive more financial help from the inhabitants of Portishead. Owing to lack of funds it is quite unable to support a County Nurse. Most cases now pay for their own nursing, but

[P.T.O.]

in a neccessitous case the patient is nursed at the expense of the Association. There is one Midwife who is part-paid by the Association. There is no getting away from the fact that the Nursing arrangements in the District are bad, and will remain so till it is brought home to everybody in Portishead the great need of a combined and earnest effort to place the Association on a firm financial footing.

4. Housing Statistics for the Year 1925.

*Number of new Houses erected during the Year :—*

(a)	Total (including numbers given under Section (6)	...	...	35
(b)	With State assistance under the Housing Acts	...	...	8
(i.)	By the Local Authority	...	...	18
(ii.)	By other persons or bodies	...	...	10

*Unfit Dwelling Houses.*

(a)	Total number inspected	...	...	23
(b)	Number of Houses found unfit for human habitation	...	...	None.
(c)	Number of Houses found not to be reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	12
(d)	Number of Houses rendered fit by informal action	...	...	3
(e)	Number of Houses requiring repairs	...	...	8
(f)	Number of Houses rendered fit after service of final notice—			
(a)	By owners	...	...	8
(b)	By Local Authority, in default of owners	...	...	None

*Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

(1)	Number of Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	One
(2)	Number of Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices	...	...	One

*Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of Housing Act, 1925.*

(1)	Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined	...	...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	Nil
(5)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	Nil

5. Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0								
1								
5	1							
10								
15	1	2		1	1	2		Nil.
20								
25		2						
35	2							
45								
55								
65 and upwards.								

*Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.*

As far as the Medical Officer of Health is aware there is not any tuberculosis person employed in the milk trade in the District.

6. Milk Supply.

The Milk supply to the District is good. There are 10 Cowsheds and 7 Dairies in the Urban District. Grade "A" Milk can be obtained, also Tubercular Tested Milk. The Cowsheds are regularly inspected and are usually found particularly clean. Six samples of Milk taken for Analysis, have been examined by the County Anayst, who reports no tubercle bacilli.

7. Meat.

The Meat supply to the district is above the usual standard. There are 4 Slaughter houses, which are regularly inspected and found very satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses.	1920.	January, 1925.	December, 1925.
Registered	2	2	2
Licensed	2	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	4	4	4

8. Infectious Cases

Portishead has been particularly free from any serious epidemic since 1920. There has been only one case of Diphtheria in the District in the past two years, the case in question being in a non-resident:

Of the non-notifiable diseases there has not been a large number, cases of mumps being the most prevalent. Pathological specimens, such as throat swabs, needing examination are sent to the Somerset County Council Health Offices at Weston-super-Mare, from which body an early reply is always received.

*Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the Year 1925.*

Disease.		Total cases Notified.		Cases admitted to Hospital.		Total Deaths.
Small-Pox	...	Nil				
Scarlet Fever	...	4	...	Nil	...	Nil
Diphtheria	...	1	...	Nil	...	Nil
Enteric Fever	...	Nil	...	Nil	...	Nil
Pneumonia	...	1	...	Nil	...	Nil
Encephalitis Lethargica, i.e., Sleepy Sickness	...	3	...	Nil	...	Nil

I am, Gentlemen, your obedient Servant,

**R. VICTOR DOWSE, M.B., D.P.H.,**

*April, 1926.*

*Medical Officer of Health.*



